

REMARKS

Applicants submit a Petition and Fee for a One-Month Extension of Time.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8, 13, 15, 17-18, 20, 22, 25-33, and 38-46 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 5, 13, 18, 20, 22, 25, and 28-31 are amended to more clearly define the invention, claims 3, 6-7, 9-12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23-24, and 34-37 are canceled, and claims 38-46 are added. Claims 1, 13, 20, and 28-29 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 5-7, 10, 12, and 24-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and that claims 29-33 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. This Amendment cancels claim 24 and incorporates the features of canceled claim 24 into independent claims 1, 13, 20, and 28 and amends claims 1, 13, 20, and 28-31 in accordance with Examiner Lopez's very helpful suggestions regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections to place this application into condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2, 4-5, 8, 13, 15, 17-18, 20, 22, 25-33, and 38-46, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for

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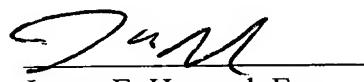
allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/11/05



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